

Member News

For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

MARCH 2004

Cooperative honors outstanding educators

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative honored the Carteret County Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2003-2004 with a banquet Feb. 5 at the Sheraton Conference Center.



Leslie McCombs-Porter, science and writing instructor at Beaufort Middle School, took center stage, but was just one of many excep-

tional educators nominated by principals from the county's 15 schools.

Sen. Scott Thomas, (D-Craven) was keynote speaker for the event. Sen. Thomas represents Carteret, Craven and Pamlico counties in the N.C. General Assembly and is a member of the Education and Higher Education committee.

Ms. McCombs-Porter teaches eighth grade science and writing at Beaufort Middle School. She joined the staff at BMS in 2002. Before that, she taught sixth grade science and language arts

at Morehead City Middle School for one year. And before that, she taught for 21 years in the Wake County Public School System.

A native of Raleigh, Ms. McCombs-Porter has a bachelor's degree in political science from N.C. State University. She also holds certifications in: library science for kindergarten through 12th grade; instruction for kindergarten through sixth grade; middle school social studies, science and English; high school social studies and English; and

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Wetlands project update

Along the roadside at Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative's property on Highway 24, it looks as if the ditch-cleaners have fallen asleep on the job. But the vegetation is part of a restored, manmade wetland that helps filter and clean runoff in Jumping Run Creek. This creek drains into major shellfish waters within Bogue Sound. These waters have been plagued with bacterial pollution impacts for a number of years.

Research on a solution to the problem began in 1997 as part of a watershed-wide approach to test techniques to decrease closure of the resource.

Carteret-Craven donated an easement within the Jumping Run Creek watershed area for the restoration of the wetland. The area treats upstream drainage from more than one third of the watershed, and the wetlands provide natural filtration to slow down the surface and subsurface water flowing into the creek.

In addition, the restoration project serves as a natural classroom where school groups can come and study the flora and

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A new sign marks the manmade wetland area at CCEC's office on Highway 24 west of Morehead City.

ON THE WEB

Saving the Planet (One Watershed at a Time)

For more information about the Jumping Run Creek Project, go to:

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/design/research/jumpingrun/index.html

Spring storms can be both dangerous and damaging

Spring storms can play havoc with power lines. Powerful winds, which are common in this area in the spring, can whip power lines loose or knock down trees and limbs that take them down. No matter what the cause, you should never touch,



Line Supervisor Al Hill

move or go near any kind of downed or hanging line, even if it looks harmless.

DOWNED LINES

Other utilities, such as cable and telephone companies, share utility poles with electrical suppliers. A downed line might be a phone or cable line, but don't take that chance. Steer clear! Immediately report a downed line to local law enforcement officials. They, in turn, can alert the appropriate utility company.

"When strong storms come through we have extra employees coming to work in the evenings and early mornings," said Line Superintendent Al Hill. "We are out during the storm working. When we get the first call (of an outage), we go. We don't wait for the storm to pass by to start working."

Until the lines are repaired, CCEC suggests several precautions you should take to avoid injury.

If you come across a downed line in a puddle, do not put your feet in the puddle. In some instances wet ground can conduct electricity. Do not try to move tree limbs that are on or near power lines. Only knowledgeable utility company employees or someone under their supervision who is protected by the appropriate safety equipment should touch or move a downed line.

If a power line falls on a car, you should stay inside the vehicle. This is the safest place to stay under the circumstances. Honk your horn to alert passers-by. Roll down the window and warn people not to touch the car or the line. Ask someone to call emergency services officials.

The only circumstance in which you should consider leaving a car that is in contact with a downed power line is if the vehicle catches on fire. In that case, open the door, but do not step out. Make sure that you can jump completely free of the vehicle with both feet together to avoid contact with the live car (metal) and the ground at the same time. Hop as far away as possible from the vehicle

keeping both feet together.

If you see someone who has come into direct or indirect contact with a downed power line, do not try to touch the person. Efforts to pull an electric shock victim away could make you a second victim. Never attempt to remove a power line. The only safe procedure is to immediately call 911.

ELECTRICAL STORMS

Another danger, especially during the spring and summer, is lightning storms. The energy from one lightning flash could light a 100-watt light bulb for more than 3 months.

"Most people respect that power and understand that lightning can destroy nearly anything," Hill said.

Typically, he said, lightning storm outages don't last much more than a couple of hours.

Nonetheless, customers are urged to be patient if their power does go out during one of these storms.

Utility lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. During an electrical storm, you should

unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information.

Avoid using the tele-

phone or any electrical appliances. Use phones only in an emergency. Do not take a bath or shower during a thunderstorm.

Unless you have PowerGuard® or other substantial surge protection for your home, you should turn off air conditioners during an electrical storm. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage to those and other household appliances and electronics.

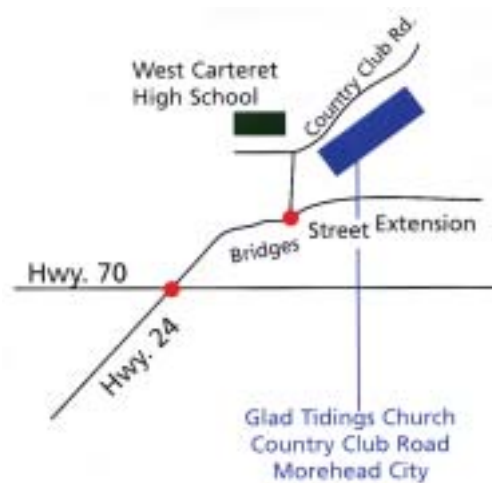
INSIDE-OUT



Though awesome to look at, lightning can be extremely dangerous, whether you are indoors or outside. (Photo provided by NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library; OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory.)

ANNUAL MEETING 2004

Make plans now to attend
Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative's
annual membership meeting at
Glad Tidings Church
on Country Club Road
in Morehead City,
Thursday, May 6, 2004.
Look for important information
on the cover and inside
next month's issue
of *Carolina Country* magazine.



Dangers **above** & **below**: stay clear of power lines

Spring planting, home renovations, outdoor recreation and other seasonal activities can be costly or even dangerous if you don't steer clear of overhead and underground power lines.

When digging in your yard or doing other landscaping work, be careful where you dig. If you hit an underground power line, you could be seriously injured. Underground power lines are well-insulated, but digging a foot or two in the wrong direction can damage those lines, causing an immediate outage or contributing to an outage that occurs days, weeks or months later. Hitting a power line can also create a shock.

If your electrical service runs underground, you should call 247-3107 before digging, excavating, setting a mailbox or fence post or planting trees and bushes.

If you have some heavy digging to do, you might be better off calling a professional.

Contact with overhead wires, however, causes more problems than digging.

When making roof repairs, cleaning gutters, or simply moving a ladder, long board, pipe or pole,

you should be alert for lines within reach. Look over the job before you start and stay clear of potential hazards. The best way to avoid a tragedy is to simply avoid working near power lines.

Trees conduct electricity and create potential safety hazards when their limbs grow close to power lines. A child climbing an



Melvin Davis, CCEC operations technician and materials handler, uses a device to find and mark underground power lines before digging nearby.

overgrown tree can easily come in contact with a live power line and risk electrocution.

Kite flying, too, should be fun, not fatal. You should know the hazards of kites in power lines. Fly kites in open areas, away from power lines and busy streets. Make sure you use a dry and non-metallic string.

If a kite gets snagged in a tree or power line, don't try to pull it loose or climb up after it. Just leave it alone.

On the water, overhead power lines sometimes are nearly invisible. If you're enjoying a day of boating, it's easy to forget that power lines frequently cross even large bodies of water.

Never assume your boat's mast, antenna, or other equipment will clear overhead power lines. The tide and boat drafts change. A miscalculation can be fatal.

When you're moving around a harbor or moving a boat on land, know where overhead power lines are. Never let any part of your mast, aerial or craft get closer than 10 feet away from any line. That's not only good boating safety, it's good sense.

Cooperative group programs inform and entertain

Need a speaker for your club, church or educational group?

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) has a variety of programs suitable for young and old on topics ranging from electrical safety to hurricane preparedness. You can choose from some of the presentations listed here, or we can create a presentation on specific topics of interest on request.

Interested groups should contact Bill Ward, CCEC director of community relations, for more information. **Call (252) 727-2251 or 1-800-682-2217.**

Programs available include the following:

Electrical Safety: presentation is tailored for specific ages from

kindergarten through senior adults. The program includes videos and an actual high voltage demonstration. The length can be modified for your group's needs.

Hurricane Preparedness: presentation includes preparing for an approaching storm, generator safety and utility restoration after the storm. A lecture and PowerPoint presentation is available, as well as a 25-minute video program.

Cooperative Impact on the Community: presentation provides insight into the economic, environmental and social impact Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative has on the communities it serves. The program includes a PowerPoint presentation and guest speaker, covering

areas such as Operation RoundUP, taxes and fees paid by the cooperative, electrical cooperative operations, and the volunteer participation of employees.

Cooperative Business Model: presentation covers how cooperatives came into being, especially electric cooperatives, during the New Deal and the Roosevelt Administration. The program explains differences in types of utilities and the territories they serve. It is presented primarily to government classes in public schools, but can be used for adult civic clubs as well

Tours: Schools, Scouts and civic groups are welcome to tour our facilities on Highway 24 for a view and explanation of the on-site wetlands restoration project.

Teachers

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academically and/or intellectually gifted instruction.

Ms. McCombs-Porter also earned a master's degree in English with emphasis on composition theory from N.C. State University.

The other nominees, selected by the principals of each of the county schools, were:

- **Adron Nelson, Atlantic Elementary School**
- **Melissa Vincent, Beaufort Elementary School**
- **Audrey Meda, Bogue Sound Elementary School**
- **Neil Davis, Broad Creek Middle School**
- **Jim Butler, Croatan High School**
- **Barbara Waters, East Carteret High School**
- **Laura Styron, Harkers Island Elementary School**
- **Diane Tyner, Morehead City Elementary School**
- **Barbara Bradshaw, Morehead City Middle School**
- **Libba Shelton, Morehead Primary School**
- **Tracy Day Pruitt, Newport Elementary School**
- **David Stroud Newport Middle School**
- **Charlotte Austin, Smyrna Elementary School**
- **Jackie Marsh, West Carteret High School**
- **Jennifer James, White Oak Elementary School**

Wetlands

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fauna associated with a wetland area, and learn more about the environmental benefits of wetlands.

Several community groups got involved in the project as well. The Carteret County Wildlife Club built bluebird houses. Carteret County Occupational High School students built bat houses, and Cape Lookout High School students planted butterfly gardens.

Funding was provided by the N.C. Department of Environment & Natural Resources; the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust; and the N.C. Wetlands Restoration Program. But many agencies were involved in the effort, including N.C. State University School of Design; N.C. State University Biological & Agricultural Engineer: Water Quality Group; N.C. Sea Grant; Duke University Marine Lab; and the N.C. Department of Environment & Natural Resources' Shellfish Sanitation Section.

If you are interested in a guided tour of the wetland area, contact Bill Ward, director of community relations, at **(252) 727-2251**.

carteret-craven electric cooperative



Offices:

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On the Web:

<http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop>